

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : **10/826,773**
Applicant : **John Harper**
Filed : **April 16, 2004**
TC/A.U. : **2676**
Examiner : **Matthew Luu**
Docket No. : **119-0042US**
Customer No. : **61947**

Confirmation No. **1274**

AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE (Rule 312)
COMMENTS ON STATEMENT FOR REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method of determining if a first node in a graph may be combined with a second node in said graph, the method comprising the steps of:
determining whether an output buffer of said first node will comprise data that is similar to an input texture of said second node;
examining each program line in said second node to determine if it negates the possibility of combining nodes; and
editing program code to replace any first-node-texture references with a single pixel, where a first-node-texture reference is a reference in the second node's code to a texture that would have been created by the first node.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of examining each program line in said second node to determine if it negates the possibility of combining nodes comprises the step of renaming local variables.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of examining each program line in said second node to determine if it negates the possibility of combining nodes comprises the step of renaming textures.